WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A factory for manufacturing customized products in response to customer orders, the factory comprising:

5   pre-packaging facilities in which components are converted into completed products;

packaging facilities in which the completed products are packaged;

an order management system that associates

10   individually identified products among the completed products with a customer order;

product release logic in the order management system that accumulates the individually identified products in the pre-packaging facilities and releases the

15   individually identified products for transport from the pre-packaging facilities to the packaging facilities only after determining that substantially all of the individually identified products for the customer order have been completed.
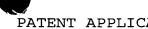
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2.   The factory of Claim 1, wherein:

the product release logic in the order management system releases the individually identified products for transport to the packaging facilities only after

25   determining that one hundred percent of the individually identified products for the customer order have been completed.
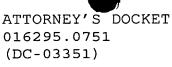
3.   The factory of Claim 1, wherein the order management system releases the individually identified products for transport to the packaging facilities by producing one or more pick reports that identify the

5   individually identified products to be released.

4.   The factory of Claim 1, wherein:

the pre-packaging facilities comprises testing facilities; and

10   the product release logic causes the individually identified products for the customer order to accumulate in the testing facilities until substantially all of the individually identified products have tested good.

15   5.   The factory of Claim 4, wherein the order management system further comprises:

status report logic that produces a status report indicating whether the customer order is nearing completion, such that a high repair priority may be

20   assigned to any individually identified products for the customer order that tested bad.

6.   The factory of Claim 1, wherein the order management system further comprises:

product hold logic that receives a hold order and, in response:

5   automatically determines whether any of the individually identified products are subject to the hold order; and

automatically prevents any individually identified products subject to the hold order from being released.

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7.   The factory of Claim 1, wherein:

the pre-packaging facilities are used to assemble multiple sets of products for multiple customer orders; and
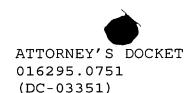
15   the order management system further comprises location report logic that produces a location report identifying a location for at least one product among the multiple sets of products, based on at least one product attribute.

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8.   The factory of Claim 7, wherein:

the at least one product attribute comprises a unique identifier for a specific product among the multiple sets of products; and

25   the location report identifies a specific location for the specific product.

9.   The factory of Claim 7, wherein:

the at least one product attribute comprises an order number for a specific order among the multiple customer orders; and

5   the location report identifies which of the products for the specific order are located in the testing facilities.

10.   The factory of Claim 7, wherein:

10   the at least one product attribute comprises a component of one or more products among the multiple sets of products; and

the location report identifies specific locations for the one or more products that include the component.
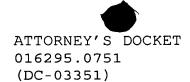
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11.   The factory of Claim 7, wherein:

the at least one product attribute comprises a product model; and

the location report identifies specific locations

20 for the products that include the component.

12.   The factory of Claim 1, wherein the order management system further comprises:

status report logic that produces a status report

25 identifying how many products are in the customer order and how many of those products have been completed, such that the report may be used to predict demand for resources in the packaging facilities.

13. The factory of Claim 1, wherein:

the pre-packaging facilities comprise assembling facilities and testing facilities;

the completed products comprise information handling
5 systems that have been assembled in the assembling facilities and tested in the testing facilities;

the packaging facilities comprise boxing facilities in which the completed information handling system are boxed; and

10 the product release logic in the order management system accumulates the information handling systems in the testing facilities and releases the information handling systems for the customer order for transport from the testing facilities to the boxing facilities only
15 after determining that substantially all of the information handling systems for the customer order have been assembled and have tested good.

14. A method of manufacturing customized products in response to customer orders in a factory that includes pre-packaging facilities and packaging facilities, the method comprising:

5   assembling components in the pre-packaging facilities into multiple products for a customer order, wherein each of the multiple products is uniquely identified and assigned to the customer order;

     accumulating the multiple products in the pre-

10   packaging facilities; and

     releasing the multiple products for transport from the pre-packaging facilities to the packaging facilities only after determining that substantially all of the multiple products for the customer order have been

15   completed.

     15. The method of Claim 14, wherein the operation of releasing the multiple products comprises:

     producing one or more pick reports that identify the

20   multiple products to be released.

     16. The method of Claim 15, further comprising:

     retrieving the multiple products to be released from the pre-packaging facilities for transport to the

25   packaging facilities, based on the one or more pick reports, wherein two or more individuals retrieve the multiple products; and

     producing a productivity report that identifies how many products have been retrieved by each of the two or

30   more individuals.

17. The method of Claim 14, wherein the pre-packaging facilities include testing facilities, the method further comprising:

5   testing one or more of the multiple products for the customer order in the testing facilities;

       producing a status report that identifies how many products in the customer order have been completed;

       determining that the customer order is nearing
10 completion, based on the status report;

       identifying a product in the customer order that failed testing, in response to the determination that the customer order is nearing completion; and

       assigning a high repair priority to the product that
15 failed testing.

18. The method of Claim 14, further comprising:

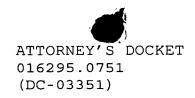   receiving a hold order;

       determining that one or more of the multiple
20 products for the customer order are subject to the hold order; and

       automatically preventing the products subject to the hold order from being released.

25   19. The method of Claim 14, further comprising:

       assembling multiple sets of products for multiple customer orders; and

       producing a location report that identifies a location for at least one product among the multiple sets
30 of products, based on at least one product attribute.

20. The method of Claim 14, wherein the pre-
packaging facilities include testing facilities, the
method further comprising:

5   producing a report of vacant capacity for products
in the testing facilities.

21. A program product for managing a factory in which customized products are built in response to customer orders, wherein the factory includes testing facilities and packaging facilities, the program product

5 comprising:

a computer-usable medium; and

computer instructions encoded in the computer-usable medium, wherein, when executed, the computer instructions perform operations comprising:

10 associating a set of products with a customer order, such that each of the products in the set is uniquely identified and assigned to the customer order;

monitoring test status for the set of products;

accumulating the set of products for the customer

15 order in the testing facilities;

automatically determining whether substantially all of the products in the set have been completed, based on the test status; and

automatically releasing the set of products for

20 transport from the testing facilities to the packaging facilities only after determining that substantially all of the products for the customer order have been completed, such that the program product causes one or more of the products in the set to accumulate in the

25 testing facility after the one or more products in the set have tested good.